

IN THE DRAWINGS:

Fig. 3; add reference numeral --150-- and associated lead line. A copy of Fig. 3 with the proposed amendment circled in red is enclosed.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Rewrite claims 1, 2, 8, 9, 12, 13, 16, 37 and 40 as follows:

1. (Amended) A method of releasing a fuel additive into a fuel, said method comprising the steps of:

providing a fuel filter containing a fuel additive combined with a matrix material in a fuel additive composition, said fuel additive being distributed in said matrix material and being effective when released into a fuel to provide at least one benefit to said fuel, said matrix material being at least partially insoluble in said fuel, said fuel filter positioned between a source of fuel and an internal combustion engine;

contacting a portion of said fuel additive composition with a portion of said fuel to provide a fuel composition comprising said fuel additive dissolved in said portion of said fuel, said matrix material remaining at least partially insoluble in said fuel during said contacting; and

allowing said fuel composition to admix with said fuel.

2. (Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein said fuel additive composition is coated with a hydrocarbon insoluble coating.

8. (Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the matrix material comprises a polymeric material.

9. (Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the fuel additive composition further comprises a coating material surrounding at

least a portion of the additive component and the matrix material.

12. (Amended) A method of releasing a fuel additive into fuel, said method comprising the steps of:

providing a fuel additive composition comprising:

a matrix material and an additive component, the additive component being located in the matrix material and effective, when released into a fuel, to provide at least one benefit to the fuel, and the matrix material being (1) substantially insoluble in the fuel and (2) effective to reduce the rate of release of the additive component into the fuel relative to an identical composition without the matrix material; and

contacting the fuel additive composition and fuel at conditions effective to release additive component from the fuel additive composition into the fuel, the matrix material remaining substantially insoluble in the fuel during the contacting.

13. (Amended) The method of claim 12 wherein the matrix material comprises at least one polymeric material.

16. (Amended) The method of claim 12 wherein the matrix material is initially in a form selected from the group consisting of a gel or a paste in the fuel additive composition.

37. (Amended) The method of claim 31 wherein the matrix material is initially a liquid in the fuel additive composition.

40. (Amended) The method of claim 12 wherein the fuel additive composition further comprises a reinforcement component in an amount effective to increase the structural strength of the fuel additive composition relative to an identical fuel additive composition without the reinforcement component.

Cancel claims 6 and 7, without prejudice.

Add new claims 42 to 55 as follows:

42. (New Claim) The method of claim 1 wherein said matrix material remains at least partially insoluble in said fuel after said contacting.

43. (New Claim) The method of claim 1 wherein the matrix material is effective to reduce the rate of release of the fuel additive into the fuel relative to an identical composition without the matrix material.

44. (New Claim) The method of claim 1 wherein said fuel is a hydrocarbon-containing liquid.

45. (New Claim) The method of claim 12 wherein the matrix material remains substantially insoluble in the fuel after the contacting.

46. (New Claim) The method of claim 12 wherein the fuel is a hydrocarbon-containing liquid.

47. (New Claim) A fuel additive composition comprising:
a sustained release component and an additive component,
the additive component is effective to provide at least one benefit to a fuel when released into the fuel,
the sustained release component is (1) substantially insoluble in the fuel, and (2) effective to reduce the rate of release of the additive component into the fuel relative to an identical composition without the sustained release component.

43. (New Claim) The additive composition of claim 47 wherein the sustained release component comprises at least one polymeric material.

49. (New Claim) The additive composition of claim 47 wherein the sustained release component is mixed with the additive component.

50. (New Claim) The additive composition of claim 49 wherein the sustained release component is present as a matrix in which the additive component is located.

51. (New Claim) The additive composition of claim 47 wherein the sustained release component coats the additive composition.

52. (New Claim) An additive composition comprising:
a matrix material and an additive component, the additive component being located in the matrix material and effective, when released into a fuel, to provide at least one benefit to the fuel,
the matrix material is (1) substantially insoluble in the fuel and (2) effective to reduce the rate of release of the additive component into the fuel relative to an identical composition without the matrix material.

53. (New Claim) The additive composition of claim 52 wherein the matrix material is initially a solid in the composition.

54. (new claim) An additive assembly comprising:
a housing including a fuel inlet and a fuel outlet; and
an additive composition disposed within the housing and including an additive component and a matrix material, the additive